

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9562

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN CB

SUBJECT: UN SYG PRESS SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS ON CAMBODIA

1. AT DAILY PRESS BRIEFING MAR 18 UN SYG PRESS SPOKESMAN (POWELL) REPORTED THAT DESPITE CRITICAL MILITARY SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH AND OTHER TOWNS UNICEF AND UNDP CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN KHMER REPUBLIC AND THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT IN FACT UNICEF, TOGETHER WITH OTHER CONCERNED ORGANIZATIONS, IS INCREASING ITS EFFORTS TO MEET SOME OF THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN. PAUL IGNATIEFF, WHO HEADS PHNOM PENH OFFICE OF UNICEF, HOPES IT WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY REGARDLESS OF FUTURE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS. IGNATIEFF ESTIMATES A MINIMUM OF 90 TONS OF SPECIAL CHILDREN'S FOOD, IN ADDITION TO RICE AND OTHER STAPLES, IS REQUIRED EACH MONTH TO CARE FOR MALNOURISHED PHNOM PENH ALONE. UNICEF STOCKS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN PORTS ARE BEING USED UP AND THE UN AGENCY IS LOOKING TO EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES TO KEEP FOOD PIPELINE GOING. EEC HAS PLEDGED TO DONATE 320 TONS OF MILK POWDER; US 36 TONS IN ADDITION TO 90 TONS OF HIGH PROTEIN FOOD; AND CANADA HAS SENT 36 TONS OF MILK POWDER AND PROTEIN DIET SUPPLEMENT. OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, CARE AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE ALSO PUMP SUPPLIES INTO REPUBLIC.

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2. SPOKESMAN SAID UNDP CONTINUES TO OPERATE PROGRAMS VIRTUALLY

FULL SCALE IN KHMER REPUBLIC. SOME 36 EXPERTS FROM SUCH AGENCIES AS ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNESCO, UN OFFICE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STILL WORKING WITH UNDP TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, HEALTH AND RECONSTRUCTION PLANNING. THE REMAIN AT THEIR UNDP ASSIGNMENTS ALTHOUGH DEPENDENTS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED (EXCEPT TWO WIVES WHO ELECT TO SERVE IN PHNOM PENH HOSPITALS). MAKING UP UNICEF OFFICE IN PHNOM PENH ARE MR. IGNATIEFF OF CANADA; EMILY STRESSBURGER, PROGRAM OFFICER FROM US; ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER JOSEPH ACAR F LEBANON AND WENDY BJORK OF SWEDEN, OFFICE ASSISTANT. SCALI

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